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gives to Ex-Governor Altgeld the whole credit of having brought to a happy termination the worst strike Chicago has ever experienced. Impartial history informs us that it was the President of the United States who acted with celerity and due firmness in this trying situation and not a vacillating governor. Criticism of the supreme court under some circumstances may be virtuous, under others it is reprehensible. The author makes of such an indirect criticism an occasion to pay a compliment to the socialist leader Eugene V. Debs. Such an end is not altogether calculated to justify the means to most readers. Other instances are not wanting where a proper degree of cleverness would have greatly increased the real value of the book.

Had the author entitled his book "Police Power in the State of Pennsylvania," title, and subject matter, external to appendix, would not have been at variance. As it is the author has confined himself to the rulings of the supreme court of Pennsylvania to the marked exclusion of the rulings of equally competent courts in other jurisdictions.

But with all its faults the book is a good book, well suited to fit the tastes and necessities of one who is looking for many things in small compass.

WARD W. PIERSON.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Cook, F. A.** *To the Top of the Continent.* Pp. xxi, 321. Price, \$2.50. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1908.

The appearance of Dr. Cook's complete narrative of his conquest of Mt. McKinley arouses especial interest at the present time because of the general anxiety concerning the author's safety in the Arctic. Under the circumstances it is somewhat amusing to read Dr. Cook's confession that he took up mountaineering as a sort of cure for the Arctic fever. The efficacy of the cure is indicated by the fact that he was already several months in the Arctic regions before the records of his mountaineering were off the press. Many readers have become familiar with part of the story of Cook's first attempt at Mt. McKinley through a series of rather undignified articles, contributed by a disgruntled companion to a popular magazine. Those readers will be gratified to have the present straightforward account and also will be pleased to note the entire absence of any personal animosity. Generously enough, Dr. Cook has only credit and praise whenever occasion arises to mention his comrades, but the average reader would undoubtedly appreciate a clearer statement of who these companions were and how it was that only one of them happened to be with the author when the coveted goal was reached.

So far as the results of the expeditions are concerned, it can not be said that the two summers, in 1903 and 1906, were spent entirely in vain. The ascent of the mountain in itself, of course, has neither practical nor scientific value, but the preliminary exploration required in making the attack resulted in the collection of much general information about a previously little known section. A sketch map embodying the principal geographic data thus gathered is included in the present volume. A line on this map, denoting the author's route, would have aided greatly in following his course of progress through

what becomes at times a perplexing maze of Alaskan Indian place names. The main scientific information contained in the volume, however, is included in the appendices by Alfred H. Brooks and Charles Sheldon. The former contributes a sketch of the geology in the Mt. McKinley region so far as it is known, and his article on railway routes in Alaska, which appeared originally in the "National Geographic Magazine." Mr. Sheldon's contributions are on the biological and ethnographic side from data collected by himself.

The one marring feature of the whole story appears in the astonishingly cruel and needless abandonment of the worn-out horses, to whatever fate they might find in an Arctic winter on the frozen tundra. No criticism can be too severe in condemning without qualification of any kind such an inhuman course on the part of the explorer. With his success, his life in fact, dependent on the service of his pack animals, the explorer is commonly accustomed to show them every kindness possible. Dr. Cook pleads the poor excuse that no member of the party had the heart to kill animals which had served them so faithfully, but the universal verdict will be that a bullet bringing quiet death would have indicated a far greater degree of merciful kindness.

Aside from this one unpleasant aspect of the narrative, the book as a whole makes decidedly interesting reading, at times affording powerfully impressive word pictures of the marvels of nature revealed to the party. Frequent excellent illustrations from photographs give some idea of the beauties of scenery, and also the difficulties of travel, which will be the reward of any following the same course.

Few who read the book will be inclined to believe that the goal was worth the trouble, though all will admire the indomitable perseverance which attained "to the top of the continent."

WALTER S. TOWER.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Curtin, J.** *The Mongols*. Pp. xxiv, 426. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1908.

This posthumous volume from the pen of one of the leading students of Eastern history represents the fruits of years of patient labor, until death cut short a most notable career and removed one of the foremost of American scholars. The greatest work of this great author was his study of the rise and decadence of the mighty Mongol Empire. The present volume brings the narrative to about the fifteenth century, when the founders of the Ming dynasty had finally driven the Mongol horde from China. Much of the volume is given over to a description of the campaigns and conquests made by Jhinghis-Khan, and his successors, in China, Russia, Arabia, and Persia. The array of facts not readily accessible elsewhere, which the author has assembled and welded into a connected story of the barbarian empire, is truly remarkable, making the volume a valuable contribution to readable accounts of Russian and Chinese history.

The most remarkable aspect of the book, however, is the fascination of the story found in the evolution of these wild herdsmen into the most terrible